

**FILED**  
**SEP 22 2011**  
**RICHARD W. WIEGERS**  
**CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT,**  
**NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

REYNALDO AYALA,

Plaintiff,

v.

ROBERT AYERS, JR., et al.,

Defendants.

No. C 10-0979 JSW (PR)

**ORDER DENYING MOTION  
 TO DISMISS AND GRANTING  
 MOTION FOR SUMMARY  
 JUDGMENT; REFERRAL FOR  
 MEDIATION**

(Docket No. 12)

This is a pro se section 1983 civil rights action filed by a prisoner at San Quentin State Prison. Defendants have moved to dismiss and for summary judgment. Despite having been granted an extension of time and the Court having allowed Plaintiff considerable additional time beyond that, Plaintiff has not opposed the motion.

**DISCUSSION**

**I. Standard of Review**

Summary judgment is proper where the pleadings, discovery and affidavits show that there is "no genuine dispute as to any material fact and the movant is entitled to judgment as a matter of law." Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(a). Material facts are those which may affect the outcome of the case. *Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc.*, 477 U.S. 242, 248 (1986). A dispute as to a material fact is genuine if there is sufficient evidence for a reasonable jury to return a verdict for the nonmoving party.

The moving party for summary judgment bears the initial burden of identifying those portions of the pleadings, discovery and affidavits which demonstrate the absence of a genuine issue of material fact. *Celotex Corp. v. Catrett*, 477 U.S. 317, 323 (1986);

1 *Nissan Fire & Marine Ins. Co. v. Fritz Cos.*, 210 F.3d 1099, 1102 (9th Cir. 2000). When  
2 the moving party has met this burden of production, the nonmoving party must go beyond  
3 the pleadings and, by its own affidavits or discovery, set forth specific facts showing that  
4 there is a genuine issue for trial. If the nonmoving party fails to produce enough evidence  
5 to show a genuine issue of material fact, the moving party wins. *Id.*

## 6 **II. Analysis**

7 In its order of service the Court dismissed some claims and defendants and  
8 allowed these claims to proceed: (1) an excessive force claim against defendants Faria,  
9 Wagner, Guthrie, and Schlosser, (2) an equal protection claim that these defendants beat  
10 him because he is of Hispanic decent; (3) a claim that Edmunds and Hansen were  
11 deliberately indifferent to a serious medical need; and (4) a due process claim against  
12 defendant Coleman involving a disciplinary hearing. Defendants Faria, Wagner, Guthrie,  
13 and Schlosser and Hansen contend that the claims against them – numbers one, two, and  
14 three in the list above – must be dismissed as barred by the statute of limitations, and  
15 defendant Coleman contends that he is entitled to summary judgment on the due process  
16 claim, claim four.

### 17 **A. Statute of Limitations**

18 Plaintiff's first three claims arose on March 26, 2007, the date he alleges he was  
19 beaten and denied medical care. The complaint in this case was filed on March 8, 2010.  
20 It is dated February 25, 2010. Movants contend that the complaint was filed one day  
21 late, even after tolling for the time Plaintiff was exhausting administrative remedies.

22 Section 1983 does not contain its own limitations period. The appropriate period  
23 is that of the forum state's statute of limitations for personal injury torts. *See Wilson v.*  
24 *Garcia*, 471 U.S. 261, 276 (1985). In California, the applicable limitations period is the  
25 two-year period set forth at section 335.1 of the California Civil Procedure Code. *See*  
26 *Maldonado v. Harris*, 370 F.3d 945, 954 (9th Cir. 2004).

27 Although the complaint here was not filed within two years of accrual of the claim,  
28 a provision of California law provides tolling for imprisonment. California Civil

1 Procedure Code section 352.1 recognizes imprisonment as a disability that tolls the  
2 statute of limitations when a person is "imprisoned on a criminal charge, or in execution  
3 under the sentence of a criminal court for a term of less than for life." *See* Cal. Civ. Proc.  
4 Code § 352.1(a). The tolling is not indefinite, however; the disability of imprisonment  
5 delays the accrual of the cause of action for a maximum of two years. *See id.* Thus, an  
6 inmate who is entitled to section 352.1 tolling has four years to bring a section 1983 claim  
7 for damages in California, i.e., the regular two year period under section 335.1 plus two  
8 years during which accrual was postponed due to the disability of imprisonment.

9 Here, Plaintiff has been sentenced to death, so it would seem that he would not be  
10 entitled to section 352.1 tolling. But although when read literally section 352.1 tolls the  
11 statute of limitations only for persons who are serving terms of imprisonment less than for  
12 life, California has held that a prisoner serving a life sentence is entitled to the tolling  
13 benefit of section 352.1. *See Grasso v. McDonough Power Equip.*, 264 Cal. App. 2d 597,  
14 601 (1968). "The California courts have read out of the statute the qualification that the  
15 period of incarceration must be 'for a term less than for life' in order for a prisoner to  
16 qualify for tolling." *Jones v. Blanas*, 393 F.3d 918, 928 n. 5 (9th Cir.2004) (citing  
17 *Grasso*, 264 Cal.App. 2d at 70); *Martinez v. Gomez*, 137 F.3d 1124, 1126 (9th Cir.1998).  
18 Because Plaintiff has been sentenced to death, the sentence necessarily includes the  
19 element of being incarcerated for life. He therefore is entitled to tolling.

20 When the two-year tolling period of section 352.1 is added to the two-year  
21 limitations period, it is clear that the complaint here – filed about three years after accrual  
22 – is not barred. The motion to dismiss will be denied.

### 23 **B. Summary Judgment**

24 Plaintiff alleges that defendant Coleman was the hearing officer for a rules  
25 violation report he received. Coleman has moved for summary judgment.

26 The motion for summary judgment is unopposed. A district court may not grant a  
27 motion for summary judgment solely because the opposing party has failed to file an  
28 opposition. *Cristobal v. Siegel*, 26 F.3d 1488, 1494-95 & n.4 (9th Cir. 1994) (unopposed

1 motion may be granted only after court determines that there are no material issues of  
2 fact). The Court may, however, grant an unopposed motion for summary judgment if the  
3 movant's papers are themselves sufficient to support the motion and do not on their face  
4 reveal a genuine issue of material fact. *See United States v. Real Property at Incline*  
5 *Village*, 47 F.3d 1511, 1520 (9th Cir. 1995) (local rule cannot mandate automatic entry of  
6 judgment for moving party without consideration of whether motion and supporting  
7 papers satisfy Fed. R. Civ. P. 56), *rev'd on other grounds sub nom. Degen v. United*  
8 *States*, 517 U.S. 820 (1996); *Henry v. Gill Industries, Inc.*, 983 F.2d 943, 950 (9th Cir.  
9 1993) (same).

10 The papers here are sufficient to support the motion and do not on their face reveal  
11 a genuine issue of material fact. The motion for summary judgment will be granted.

### 12 CONCLUSION

13 1. The motion to dismiss by defendants Faria, Wagner, Guthrie, and Schlosser and  
14 Hansen (document No. 12) is DENIED. The motion for summary judgment by defendant  
15 Coleman (document 12) is GRANTED.

16 2. Defendant J. Edmonds has not been served. The summons addressed to him  
17 was returned with the notation that no one by that name works at San Quentin or  
18 "anywhere in CDC." Plaintiff shall provide an address for service of Edmonds within  
19 thirty days. If he does not, the claims against Edmonds will be dismissed.

20 3. This case is REFERRED to Magistrate Judge Vadas pursuant to the Pro Se  
21 Prisoner Mediation Program. All further proceedings in this case except those related to  
22 the mediation and matters related to the service of Edmonds are STAYED pending  
23 completion of that procedure.

24 The mediation proceedings shall take place as Judge Vadas' schedule allows. All  
25 mediation proceedings shall be confidential and no statement made therein will be  
26 admissible in any proceedings in the case, unless the parties otherwise agree. No part of  
27 the mediation proceeding shall be reported, or otherwise recorded, without the consent of  
28 the parties, except for any memorialization of a settlement.

1 The Clerk shall mail a copy of this order to Magistrate Judge Nandor Vadas in  
2 Eureka, California.

3 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

4 DATED: SEP 22 2011

  
JEFFREY S. WHITE  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

REYNALDO AYALA,  
Plaintiff,

Case Number: CV10-00979 JSW  
**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

v.

ROBERT AYERS JR et al,  
Defendant.

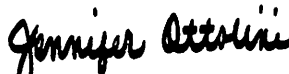
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I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am an employee in the Office of the Clerk, U.S. District Court, Northern District of California.

That on September 22, 2011, I SERVED a true and correct copy(ies) of the attached, by placing said copy(ies) in a postage paid envelope addressed to the person(s) hereinafter listed, by depositing said envelope in the U.S. Mail, or by placing said copy(ies) into an inter-office delivery receptacle located in the Clerk's office.

Reynaldo Ayala  
E10000  
San Quentin State Prison  
San Quentin, CA 94974

Dated: September 22, 2011

  
Richard W. Wieking, Clerk  
By: Jennifer Ottolini, Deputy Clerk